sek Credit for the Work Others Did at Nippur-One Tablet He "Found" He Bought From a Dealer Here-Renewal the Agitation Harmful to University.

"I am very sorry the old charge of 'literry dishonesty' against Dr. Hilprecht of the University of Pennsylvania has been evived by the resolutions passed at a seting of the American Society of Biblial Literature and Exegesis in Philadelphia yesterday. It is a painful subject. The matter has been disposed of so far as the university is concerned by the action of the university trustees in exonerating Prof. Hilprecht; so far as American Assyriologists are concerned they are pavinced that Prof. Hilprecht imagines things which probably never happened-

sitively never happened." This comment was made by a gentleman holding an important professional lace who is recognized as a high auhority in Assyriology. Because of his incere regret that the Hilprecht controeray has been reopened, which includes feeling of censure against those who have reopened it, he declined to permit als name to be used in connection with further discussion of the case, but consented to make further comment for the sake of making clear the present status

of the controversy. "The exonerating report of the university trustees," he continued, "was made nearly two and a half years ago, so of course the original charges against Prof. Hilprecht were made some time longer ago han that. Yet since they were first made Prof. Hilprecht has offered no evidence to refute them and has made but one formal allusion to them of which I am aware. That was in his introduction to one of his volumes issued a couple of years ago in the University of Pennsylvania." In that he briefly mentioned the wirrgs and promsed to speak further on the mbfr-t.

"This he has not done so far as I am aware. He has had ample opportunity o do so. At a meeting of the American Oriental Society, held here last May, resolutions were adopted similar to those adopted in Philadelphia yeterday: Prof. Hilprecht is a member of the American Oriental Society. I believe; anyway he was informed that some action in his case was to be taken at the May meeting, but he left the country a day or two before the

"I hoped then that the subject would be dropped, but the trouble is that some of the younger men who did important work in the expeditions were wholly ignored by Prof. Hilprecht in his reports and other writings. They feel slighted, and that perhaps is natural, but this continual agitation on their part begins to have the appearance of malice.

those young men did valuable work; we ow that Hilprecht did little or noth-the work. That should satisfy them

and induce them to let the painful sub-ject rest."

You speak of Prof. Hilprecht baying done little of the work: the public would be interested in anything further you will say on that subject," the reporter sug-

"Why, the expedition pursued its search and made exavations for eight or en and made exavations for eight or en vears at Nipper. As I recall the facts, Dr. Peters was the first field director, Prof. Hilprecht having general control. In the first season Prof. Bilprecht left Nipper after a short visit, deciaring that he did not believe the excavations there would reveal anything. But, as the world knows, very important finds were made, and then Dr. Peters resigned from his position on Dr. Peters resigned from his position on the expedition stan owing to his dissatis-faction with Prof. Hilprecht's management. Dr. Peters was succeeded as field director by J. H. Haynes, who had assisted Dr. Peters, and Ar. Haynes had practically concluded the work of the expedition be fore Prof. Hilprecht returned to Nippur We know that Prof. Hilprecht did not personally find any of the bricks or tablets or other objects; that, indeed, they were all loxed and ready for shipment before he arrived, and he saw only a few which were unpacked

and he saw only a few which were impacked for his inspection.

"However, what was found there was in a sense found by Prof. Hilprecht, as he was the titular head of the expedition, but you must understand that the controversy rages around some tablets which never were in Nippur, surely never in the Temple library so called, but one of which is described by Prof. Hilprecht in his writings and pictures too as having been found by him in the Temple library of Nippur. The tablet in question was bought by Prof. Hilprecht from Daniel Z. Noorian, a merchant of this city. That story you must get from Mr. Noorian.

"Prof. Hilprecht is a charming man personally and an able scholar too, but as

personally and an able scholar too, but as I have said he is possessed of an imagination which plays him tricks. That is one way of explaining his trouble. It might be called 'the big head.' The complaint comptimes afflicts learned men with a great ambition.

"As for that exoneration of Hilprecht As for that exoneration of Hilprecht by the trustees, they are business men; they naturally wished to protect the university from a scandal. Dr. Hilprecht's vife is a very wealthy woman with many important family connections in Pennsylvania, related intimately in business and bodal affairs with the trustees. Such consideration of the protection with the trustees. Assyriologists and all friends of Dr. Peters wished the investigation of the charges made by competent investigators. The university had at its disposal in its own eum men abundantly capable of making examination, but their services were

not called upon.

"The result of all this agitation—and this is why I deplore it—is that the splendid work the University of Pennsylvania is equipped to do, prepared with funds from the Clarke endowment to do, is in a state unfavorable to preduce results."

Concerning the subject of the last com-

Concerning the subject of the last comment quoted above Dr. Peters has said:

"The saddest part of it all is the condition in which the university museum is left.
Chaos is the word that describes it. Nobody knows what is there. Nobody can find out. I wrote only recently to one of the curators asking about a collection I purchased myself. He replied that he did not know anything about it and could not dnd out, because he could not get permission even to see a catalogue. As a matter of fact they will not let anybody see anything

there."

The reporter next called upon D. 7.

Noorian, who is a dealer in antiquities at
293 Fifth avenue.

"Yes," said Mr. Noorian, "I bought the
tablet Prof. Hilprecht has described as
having come from the Temple library of
Mippur. I bought it from a dealer in the
city of Bagdad and sold it with others to
Prof. Hilprecht."

Asked to tell the story of the purchase.

Asked to tell the story of the purchase,

Asked to tell the story of the purchase, Mr. Noorian continued:

"While the University of Pennsylvania expedition was at work at Nippur I was also looking for antiquities. In the city of Bagdad I chanced to meet a dealer who lived near Abu-habba. In the latter place excavations were also being carried on. My dealer lent money to peasants, with an understanding (this I infer, knowing the ways of such dealers) that they can repay their loans with any bits of antiquities they are able to pick up. In this way my dealer had picked up fifteen or seventeen tablets which had been unearthed at Abu-habba.

at Abu-habba.

"I had been asked to spend a few pounds for anything I might—come upon which looked to me as if it might be of value to the museum of the University of Pennsylvania. I bought those tablets and entered all the details of the transaction in my note book. The tablets were inscribed in Babylonian cuneiform. That has

since turned out to be the fact. I could is MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND"

The second secon

since turned out to be the fact. I could not read the inscriptions.

"Those tablets I sold to Prof. Hilprecht. When his book on the expedition came out one of those tablets was described by the author as having been recovered from the Temple Library of Nippur. I thought that strange, as the tablets had never been nearer than 300 miles of Nippur.

"When this controversy arose some one came to me and asked if I had preserved my note book in which I had entered the Bagdad transaction. I had preserved the book and the person made a copy of it by photography." photography

photography."

"There can be no doubt as to the identity of the tablet?"

"Certainly not. I had describe.' the tablet accurately. One of those I purchased and described is the one pictured and described in Prof. Hilprecht's book."

PROF. HILPRECHT STANDS PAT. Refuses to Reopen the Nippur Library Controversy.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.-After a wrangle among the members that threatened for a time to become undignified the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis modi fied its resolution calling upon Prof. Hermann V. Hilprecht to explain his Nippur library allegations. They struck out the words "moral integrity" and confined themselves to saying that "whereas charges reflecting on American-Oriental scholarship have been publicly made against Prof. Hermann V. Hilprecht," &c.

They, however, stuck to their main intention and "resolved-that this society shares in the desire already expressed by a number of American-Oriental scholars that a complete reply to these charges be made in the journal of the society or elsewhere. Prof. D. G. Lyon of Harvard and Prof. H. P. Smith of the University of Pennsylvania offered objections, but the final vote for the resolution was 11 to 7. Previously a vote to lay the whole matter on the table until a subsequent meeting had been de-

Prof. Hilprecht sent the following state-

My reply to the charges preferred against me by Dr. John P. Peters was made to his own chosen tribunal, the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, the only American institution or organization I recognize as officially entitled to demand it. If societies or individuals are dissatisfied with the official verdicts of 1905, or the extent to which publicity has been given to the proceedings at this time for a public review or revival of

feated, 10 to 8.

In my reply of April 27, 1906, to the request made to me under date of April 18, 1906, by a number of American-Orientalists for a full and frank statement of facts, so far as they bear upon your activity at Nippur I said in part:

A statement from me of the nature suggested would inevitably reopen the con-troversy officially terminated last year by the board of trustees of the university which

I have the honor to serve. There will be published before my return from abroad in the official series of the Babylonian section of the University of Pennsylvania a volume which I am confident will afford to Assyriologists more than a little proof of at least a part of my contentions of the meaning of the material un-carthed at Nippur, and this I feel must "All American Orientalists know that suffice until my further labors, and those of others who share my belief in the temple library at Nippur, can be presented in an orderly way for the information of the scien-

The grave imputations which you say remain uncleared appear to rest solely the integrity of my scholarship, and this injustice I can continue to patiently bear until ny vindication can be obtained by my scienend this course will prove less detrimental o the progress of Oriental learning in Amer ca than any other now open to me

To this statement I adhere. H. V. HILPRECHE. The discussion was very acrimonious. Prof. George A. Barton of Bryn Mawr, who

introduced the resolution of to-day, said: When the resolution was introduced I did not know Prof. Hilprecht was not urthe room As to the statement that he made that I am his enemy I can only quote St. Paul: "Have then become your enemy by telling the

Dr. John P. Peters, speaking for the

resolution, said: What was technically called a hearing before the trustees of the University of Pennsylvania amounted to nothing I had nothing to do with the resolution adopted by the Society of Bibical Literature vesterday 1 was rather glad I wasn't there at the time. But I was present when the resolution was passed this morning. It seems to me that the passage of the resolution to-day was the most natural thing when charges of falsification of records have been made in scientific publications. I would think it the most natural thing if a man so charged did not offer an explanation that scholars should request it. It's a question for scholarly inquiry and udgment primarily. I don't suppose that the intention was more than to ask such a reasonable inquest, and the man who does not

Prof. Lewis Haupt said that after mature deliberation sixteen of the leading Oriental-ists of the country had decided that Prof. Hilprecht owed an explanation. The latter. he added, had promised such an explanation in a forthcoming book, but it had not yet

Prof. Ramsay thought the attitude of the Prof. Ramsay thought the attitude of the society was unfair to Prof. Hilprecht, who, he declared, should be allowed to present his side of the case first. The explorer, said Prof. Ramsay, might have a counter charge to bring against some other member.

"Five thousand years from now," said
Prof. Ramsay, "some archeologist may dig
up records in this country in which the name
of Hilprecht only will appear, and that with
these charges coupled with it."

Then the resolution was passed and the
society adjourned.

Next Week at the Metropolita n. "Faust" and "La Traviata," which have not been sung this season at the Metropolitan Opera House, will be included in the repertory for the eighth week of the season. Gounod's opera will be given on Monday evening and the cast will include Mmes. Geraldine Farrar, Jacoby and Girerd, and MM. Caruso, Chaliapine. Scotti and Begue. Mr. Bovy will conduct. "La Traviata" will be sung on Wednes-

"La Traviata" will be sung on Wednesday evening. The principal rôles will be entrusted to Mme. Sembrich and MM. Caruso, Scotti, Navarini, I-ufriche, Begue and Tecchi. Mr. Ferrari will conduct.

"Tristan und Isolde" will be repeated on Thursday evening, and "Mefistofele" on Friday evening, and "Mefistofele" on Friday evening. "Marta," which could not be given last week on account of the illness of Mme. Sembrich, will be given at the Saturday matinée, and "Alda" will be the opera on Saturday evening.

The soloists at the popular concert on Sunday evening will be Mmes. Emma Earnes and Jacoby, and MM. Martin and Journet. Mr. Ferrari will conduct.

"Hansel und Gretel" will be substituted for "Cavalleria Rusticana" on Saturday evening. The cast of the Humperdinck opera will include Mmes. Mattfeld, Alten, Weed and Homer, and Mr. Goritz. Mr. Hertz will conduct. The performance of "Hansel und Gretel" and "Pagliacci" will begin at 7:45.

St. Nicholas Rink Was Open on Sunday. Cornelius Fellows, acting manager, and Frank Goodwin, treasurer of the St. Nicholas Rink, at Sixty-sixth street and Columbus las Rink, at Sixty-sixth street and Columbus avenue, were in the West Side court yesterday on summonses obtained by Capt Farriell of the West Sixty-eighth street police station, who alleges that they violated the law by keeping the rink open last Sunday. Magistrate Harris asked the Police Department counsel and counsel for the defendants to submit briefs and on next Friday he would decide whether or not a complaint should be ordered.

PATTER, PULCHRITUDE, PUNS AND PETTICOATS.

Who Gets the Hook at the Criterion, That's the Question-Ssh! It's the Handmaster. Because of a Tune He Said He Wrote

There was a good deal of what Mr. Ibsen of Norway and Nazimova, would call "the joy of life" around the neighborhood of Mr. Rector's front stoop last night. Ten thousand fish horns were tooting out the old, tooting in the new. The amount of tooting of all kinds, in fact, was considerable. Why? Why make all this fuss over an arbitrary, man made division of eternal

While the Christian century is toddling along in its first pair of short pants the century in Islam has already reached and passed its grave maturity. The evening baked beans of 1907 will coldly furnish the breakfast table of 1908 (in Boston, anyhow), and they will be eaten, and then we'll have to plan for lunch, just as of old. What difference does it make?

These metaphysical speculations may not seem to the careless mind to have anything whatever to do with "Miss Hook of Holland," a little thing in the musical comedy line imporetd from dear old Lon-Well, they haven't-not a solitary thing! We simply make them because it's easier than to write about the play. We like to put sure things off as long as

But that doesn't mean "Miss Hook of Holland" is like "The Girls of Holland," of late memory at the Lyric. Dear me (pardon, dear us/), no! We wouldn't say so if it were. We shouldn't have the heart. But it isn't. It is just another one of those cambrio tea musical comedies that are always running for a year in London and getting brought over here by Charles Frohman or somebody after Earls and Lords and things have married all the English chorus. That is why a new lot of broilers has to be picked out along the alley each time one of these pieces arrives. About such pieces there is nothing new to be said. That is why we are so loath to

Paul Rubens and Austen Hurgon wrote what they call the "chatter" of "Miss Hook." Paul Rubens wrote what he calls the "jingles and tunes" all by his ownty se'f. Mercy, what a mighty man is he! Not content with being a Gilbert, he is a Sullivan too. And he's as much one as the other. We don't mind admitting that right

out in meeting. There is a pretty cambric tea tinkle to much of his music, though it gets deadly monotonous after a while. Compared with monotonous after a while. Compared with George Cohan's efforts at composition it is, of course, high art. But why use George Cohan as a standard, with "Tom Jones" and "The Merry Widow" near at hand? Compared with their scores, the music of "Miss Hook" is merely some more notes and a whistle or two. "Men who write tunes," says Mr. Hook, "are capable of worse things." Hm—perhaps. But not often. And, like the music, the "clatter" drules pleasantly and asininely on, in its pretty Dutch setting, out of the mouths of pretty Christie Macdonald and Georgia Caine and funny Tom Wise, who looked like one of the cheeses he sang about, and some other

the cheeses he sang about, and some other people. Miss Caine sang a song about her fifteen petticoats, beginning with "a pretty pink petti from Peter, a lovely blue petti from John," that enlivened matters some, as she raised each petti in turn.

as she raised each petti in turn.

And there were songs about cheeses—
not cheesy songs—and such foolish bits of
English humor as Tom Wise's list of the
things he didn't like, which included "small,
sticky children." Everybody concerned
did all this as if he or she enjoyed it and
thought it quite the nicest of all possible
things to do, so there was spirit and fiveliness in it and the audience had a real good
time. Having said which, we consider that time. Having said which, we consider that we have done our duty.

News of Plays and Players.

This week will mark the close of Arnold Daly's occupancy of the Berkeley. Yester-day Mr. Daly began rehearsals of his new day Mr. Daiy began renearsals of his new play, "My Mamie Rose," which has been written for him by Owen Kildare. Messrs. Cohan and Harris have invited Victor Moore and the entire "Talk of New York" company and the executive staff of the Knickerbocker Theatre to a New Year's supper at the Café Ambassadeurs to-night.



Once more we've swung the circle and can wish you a Happy New Year.

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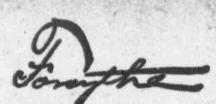
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will also be disposed of at this time. The extent of the sale renders it necessary to have TWO SESSIONS DAILY AT 11 A. M. AND AT 3 P. M., To-morrow (Thursday), Friday and Saturday, The Gallery of

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Soloist, Fritz Kreisier, Violin.
Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral," Beethoven; Violin.
Concerto, Vivaidi, "The Isle of Love," Glazounow;
Violin Concerto, No. 4, Mozart; Overture, "Der Freischuetz," Weber.
Box Office open dally from 9 to 5.

MENDELSSOHN HALL. First Con cert Thursday Evening, Jap. 2, at 8:15. Olive Mead Quartet Program: MOZART, Quartet in Consistency of the Program: MOZART, Quartet in Consistency of the Program of the Pr

AMUSEMENTS. ORAND CENTRAL 43d & Last DAYS 10. A. M. to 11 P. M. Adults, 50c.; Children, 25c.

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HOLLAND A melodrama from the novel of the same name. CASINO B'WAY & 30th. Last Week. DE ANGELIS THE GAY WHITE WAY MON., JAN. 6 Seats To-morrow.
Thomas W. Ryley's FUNABASHI
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MANHATTAN OPERA HOUSE, Sth St., nr. 8th Av. TO-NIGHT, at 8-THE MASKED BALL. Mme. Russ, Bressler-Gianoli, Zeppilli; MM. Zenatello, Sammarro, Arimondi, Mus. Dir., Carneaulsi. Zenatello, Saminarro, Attubucio, Campanial.

THURS, EVE., at 8.—Pop. prices (75c.-\$8.)—
TALES OF HOFFMANN. Mile. Zepplill, Jomell, Glaconia; MM. Renaud, Dalmores, Gilibert. Mus. Dir., Campanini.
FRI., at 8.—LOUISE. Miss MARY GARDEN, Mme. Bressler-Glanoli; MM. Dalmores,
Gilibert and 22 other principals. Mus. Dir.,
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Gillbert and 22 other principals. Mus. Dir.,
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SAT. MAT., at 2.—RIGOLETTO. Miles.
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SAT. MAT.—LOUISE. Miss MARY GARDEN, Mme. Bressler-Glanoli; MM. Daimores,
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GARRICK 35th St., nr. Broadway, Ev. 8:30. Mats. To-day & Sat. 2:15.

Maxine Elliott UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE. KNICKERBOCKER. B'way & 38th St. Ev. 8:15. Mats. To day & Sat., 2:15. Litts the THE TALK OF NEW YORK. Mark. SAVOY Mith St., Br. B'way. Evs. 6:18. Mats.
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MAN OF THE HOUR Broadhurst. The Thief MARGARET ILLINGTON.

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BIG AMATEUR NIGHT TO-BORROW. GOTHAM E. 125th. Ladies' Mat. To-day Watson's Burlesquers. Krausemeyer's Alley-Vaude. Big Amateur Night Every Friday.

GERMAN THEATRE, Irving Pl. To-day 2:30.
Matinee, "Aschenbroedi." To-night, 8:20. Fulda's Comedy "Der Dummkopf". GRAND Mat. HATTIE WILLIAMS
To-day The Little Cherub. MURRAY HILL THEATRE, 42d at. & Lex. av.
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MAT. DAILY. AMATEUR NIGHT FRIDAY. ICE SKATING St. Nicholas Rink. 3 Sessions daily, 86th St. & Columbus Av. 14th St. At 6th Av. New Year's Mat. To-day, "The Oysterman."

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To-night, at 7:45 — TRISTAN UND 1801_DE. Fremstad, Homer; Knote, Van Rooy, Blass, Reiss, Muhimann. Conductor. Mr. Gustav Mahler (Debut).
Thurs. Evg., Jan. 2, at 3 — MADAMA BUT. TERFILT. Farrar, Jacoby; Caruso, Stracciart, Reiss, Muhimann, Barocchi. Cond., Ferrart. Fyl. Evg., Jan. 3, at 3—11/BARB EERE DI SIVIGLIA. Sembrich: Bonci, Campanari, Chaliapine, Barocchi, Tecchi. Cond., Ferrart. Sat. Aft., Jan. 4, Mat. at 2—AIBA. Gadski, Rirkby-Lunn; Caruso, Scotti, Journet, Muhimann. Tecchi. Cond., Ferrart. Sat. Evg., pop. prices, at 7:48—Double bill. HAENSEL UND GRETTEL. Matifeld, Alten. Homer, Weed; Goritz. Cond., Mr. Hertz. Foilowed by PAGLIACCI. Cavalleri: Martin. Stracciari, Reiss, Sarto. Cond. Ferrari. SUN. EVG., JAN. 5, POP. PRICES AT 8:30 GRAND SUNDAY NIGHT CONCERT Soloists: Mmea. Emma Eames, Jacoby, Mm. Martin. Journet. Entire Metrop. Opera House Soloists: Mmea. Emma Eames, Jacoby; M.M. Martin, Journet. Entire Metrop. Opera House Orohestra. Cond., Mr. Ferrari Mon. Evg., Jan., 4, at 8—FAUST. Farrar, Jacoby, Girerd; Caruso, Scotti, Chailapine Begue. Cond. Boy. Mon. Evg., Jan. 4. at 8-FAUST. Farrar, Jacoby. Girerd; Caruso. Scotti, Challapine. Begue. Cond., Bovy. Wed. Evg., Jan. 5, at 8-LA TRAVIATA. Sembrich. Girerd, Jacoby; Caruso, Scotti, Dufriche. Begue, Navarini, Tecchi. Cond., Ferrari.

Thurs. Evg., Jan. 9, at 7:45-TRISTAN UND ISOLDE. Fremstad, Homer; Knote, Van Kooy, Blass, Munimann, Reiss. Cond., Mahler. Fri. Evg., Jan. 10, at 8-MEFISTOFELE. Cavalleri, Rappold, Jacoby, Girerd; Challapine. Martin, Tecchi. Cond., Ferrari.

The sale of seats for next week's performances begins TO-MORROW (Thurs.) at 9 A. M. WERER PIANO USED.

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